

# Medicare for Children with End-Stage Renal Disease



GETTING STARTED



For parents of children  
eligible for Medicare

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**ask** Medicare

# MEDICARE FOR YOUR CHILD DIAGNOSED WITH PERMANENT KIDNEY FAILURE

## LET'S GET STARTED.

Finding out that your son or daughter has End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant) is hard. You may have questions about his or her health condition and treatment options. Your child's health care team can help answer these questions. You may also be concerned about paying for the health care costs that come with this disease.

Medicare can help cover your child's health care costs. Even if you currently have other health insurance, enrolling your child in Medicare can protect against a future loss of coverage.

**Note:** In this document, a child is defined as an unmarried person under age 22 who is your child, legally adopted child, stepchild (for at least one year), or a grandchild or step-grandchild (in some cases).

## How to Tell if Your Child is Eligible

Your child is eligible for Medicare if both you and your child meet the following conditions:

1. Conditions that apply to you:
  - You (or your spouse) have earned at least six credits within the last three years under Social Security, the Railroad Retirement Board, or as a Federal government employee, **OR**
  - You (or your spouse) are getting, or are eligible for Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board benefits.
2. Conditions that apply to your child:
  - Your child needs regular dialysis because his or her kidneys no longer work, **OR**
  - He or she has had a kidney transplant.

To enroll your child in Medicare or to get more information about eligibility, call or visit your local Social Security office. You can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778. If you visit your local office, you might be asked to bring the following documents:

- Your child's birth certificate and Social Security card
- Your Social Security card
- CMS Form 2728 (End-Stage Renal Disease Medical Evidence Report Medicare Entitlement and/or Patient Registration). You will usually get this form from your child's doctor or dialysis unit.



Medicare helps pay for kidney dialysis and kidney transplant services. Your child will need both Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) to get the benefits available under Medicare for people with ESRD.

## Kidney Dialysis

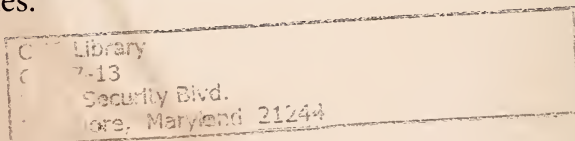
If your child is in a hospital, Part A covers their dialysis treatments and Part B covers their doctor's services.

If your child isn't in a hospital, Part B helps pay for the following dialysis services:

- Outpatient dialysis treatments (in a Medicare-approved dialysis facility)
- Home dialysis equipment and supplies
- Certain home support services
- Certain drugs for home dialysis
- Doctors' services (inpatient or outpatient)
- Most other services that are part of dialysis, like laboratory tests

Your child can get dialysis at any Medicare-approved facility anywhere in the United States.

**Note:** In most cases, Medicare doesn't pay for transportation to dialysis facilities.



# C O V E R E D

## **Kidney Transplant**

Generally, Part A covers the following transplant services:

- Inpatient services in an approved hospital
- Kidney Registry fee
- Laboratory and other tests needed to evaluate your child's medical condition and the condition of potential kidney donors
- The costs of finding the proper kidney for your child's transplant surgery
- The full cost of care for your child's kidney donor

Part B helps pay for the following transplant services:

- Doctors' services for kidney transplant surgery
- Doctors' services for the kidney donor during his or her hospital stay
- Immunosuppressive drugs (for a limited time after your child leaves the hospital following a transplant)
- Blood (if a transfusion is needed)

## WHAT YOU PAY

Generally, Part A pays for inpatient hospital services and you pay a deductible.

For Part B services, Medicare generally pays 80% of the Medicare-approved amount, after you pay the Part B yearly deductible. You pay the remaining 20% coinsurance. This is in addition to the Part B monthly premium.

## MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (PART D)

Medicare also offers prescription drug coverage for everyone with Medicare, generally for an additional premium. This would cover immunosuppressive drugs after Part B no longer covers them.

To get Medicare drug coverage, you must enroll your child in a Medicare drug plan, while he or she is still eligible for Medicare.

These plans are run by private insurance companies or other companies approved by Medicare. Each plan can vary in cost and drugs covered.

## OTHER WAYS TO PAY HEALTH CARE COSTS

In addition to Medicare, your state may have programs that offer additional help to cover your child's health care costs. Call your State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office to get information about the following programs:

- Medicare Savings Programs
- Medicaid
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Kidney Disease Programs

CMS Library  
C2-07-13  
7500 Security Blvd.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

You generally have the right to be included in decisions about your child's treatment, the right to a fair process to appeal decisions about payment of services, and the right to privacy and confidentiality. For more information, read the free booklet "Your Medicare Rights and Protections." Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

## HOW TO FILE A GRIEVANCE (COMPLAINT)

If you have a problem with the dialysis services, talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or facility administrator first to see if they can help you. If necessary, you can file a grievance (a written complaint) with the facility. If that doesn't solve your problem, you also have the right to file a grievance with the ESRD Network in your area, or call your State Survey Agency.





## CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can view or print Medicare publications, find helpful phone numbers and websites, and compare dialysis facilities in your area by visiting [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

- **To learn more details about eligibility, coverage, cost information, and how Medicare works with other insurance,** read the free booklet “Medicare Coverage of Kidney Dialysis and Kidney Transplant Services.”
- **To find a Medicare-approved dialysis facility,** visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and select “Compare Dialysis Facilities in Your Area.”
- **For free health insurance counseling and personalized help,** call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).
- **To get a report on a particular dialysis facility,** call your State Survey Agency.
- **For more information on dialysis and transplants, or to file a grievance,** call your ESRD Network.